THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to d). Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik amman Pension Scheme, ex-INA personnel who had uffered a minimum imprisonment/detention of six ıonths out side India during the freedom struggle are ligible for the purpose of grant of samman pension as eedom fighters. Their widows who have not since ɜmarried are also eligible for family pension on the trength of the sufferings undergone by their husbands. o seperate statistics are being maintained about the umber of participants in a movement. However, pension as so far been granted in 22,044 cases of ex-INA ersonnel and their spouses covered under the rovisions of the above said scheme.

English]

Reservation for Disabled Persons

641. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of /ELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister affirmed the ıovernment's commitment on reservation of posts for ıe disabled on the independence Day;

(b) if so, the number of persons so far recruited in ıe Government of India including Public Undertakings; nd

(c) the total number of mentally retarded persons ıd persons suffering from maladies so far provided bs?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT INGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is awaited from Department of ersonnel and Training and Department of Public nterprise.

(c) Although there is no reservation in jobs for entally Handicapped Persons, the information about e number of persons including Handicapped in the ve Registers of Employment Exchanges is awaited ɔm Directorate General of Employment and Training.

Prices of Rifamicin

642. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the inister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased state :

(a) whether the reduction in the price of Rifamicin ntituberculosis drugs) were recommened much earlier ıereas the final decision in this regard was taken uch later during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this atter;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the formulators of the said anti-tuberculosis drug were also involved in a number of frauds, causing heavy loss to the Government exchequer;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against such formulators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). There has been no inordinate delay in reducing the price of bulk drug Rifamicin and formulations based thereon as the Rifamicin Policy for 1995-96 was under consideration during this period which had a bearing on the announcement of Rifampicin prices. The Rifampicin policy was first announced in June, 1995 and correspondingly the price of bulk drug Rifampicin was reduced from Rs. 5695 per kg. to Rs. 5220 per kg. Subsequently, prices of the ceiling packs of Rifampicin formulations were reduced on 6.11.95 and those for non ceiling packs were reduced on 5.10.93 respectively.

(d) and (e). No such instances has been brought to the notice of the Government so far;

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Misuse of Funds

643. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether special Central assistance for the 'special component plan' to Government of Bihar has been discontinued since 1994-95 on the ground of misuse of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of complaints received regarding misuse of funds by various NGOs during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). Release of grants to Government of Bihar Under Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs was stopped since 1994-95 as it was detected from the details of utilisation of the Special Central Assistance during 1990-91 to 1993-94, furnished by the Government of Bihar in May 1994 that about Rs. 70.50 crores out of the Special Central Assistance released to the State Government from 1989-90 to 1993-94 was not utilised by it for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. The State Government was asked to make available all the